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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

GREEK RAISIN YIELD UP; CURRANTS DOWN

Preliminary estimates from Greece indicate a large 1955 raisin crop of 50,000 short tons, about 4,000 tons more than in 1954; and a below-average dried currant crop of 72,000 tons, approximately 5,000 tons less than in 1954. Some frost and hail damage is held responsible for the smaller prospective currant crop.

ETHIOPIA CONCERNED OVER CONTINUED COFFEE PRICE DROP

The money economy of Ethiopia depends to a large extent on sales of coffee. Therefore, the continued fall in the price of coffee dominated the economic scene in Ethiopia throughout the first quarter of the year, and remains a matter of much concern to the government and the business world.

Cause of most concern is the increasing spread between the price of Santos No. 4 and Ethiopian coffee. The spread is said to have averaged in the neighborhood of 6 to 7 cents, U. S. currency, through last year. When coffee prices were very high, the spread narrowed at one time to 2 cents. In recent weeks the spread between Santos No. 4 and Ethiopian coffee has widened to nearly 20 cents. There are various reasons given for this spread. One is that certain exporters became panicky and sold stocks at unnecessarily low prices, thus depressing the price for all. Another explanation is that when coffee prices are very high, cheap coffees are in great demand and consequently sell at a relative premium, thus pushing their prices close to the prices for higher grades. When coffee is plentiful and prices are low, the reverse results and the spread between Santos and Ethiopian coffee consequently grows apace.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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'54 INDONESIAN ABACA AND SISAL OUTPUT UP SLIGHTLY FROM '53

Production of abaca and sisal in Indonesia in 1954 totalled 66.0 million pounds, or slightly more than the 60.5 million in 1953, but not as great as the 66.7 million pounds in 1952, according to a report from the American Embassy, Djakarta. Abaca and sisal are produced on estates in Sumatra and Java, and there is practically no smallholder production.

Indonesian exports of abaca totalled nearly 2.0 million pounds, with a value at the equivalent of about $293,000. This is equal to only about 33 percent of the 1953 exports of 6.1 million pounds and only 15 percent of the 1952 exports of 13.0 million pounds. The principal producer reported that the decline in exports reflects not only a decline in production but also an increase in domestic consumption.

Of the 1954 exports of abaca, 997,000 pounds were destined for the United Kingdom, 815,000 for the United States, 90,000 for the Netherlands, 55,000 for Japan, and 16,000 for Sweden. The United Kingdom and the United States together accounted for 92 percent of both the quantity and value of the total of Indonesian exports of abaca.

Sisal exports from Indonesia totalled 51.5 million pounds, valued at about $4.3 million in 1954, compared with a total of 52.8 million pounds at $5.0 million in 1953. The United States ranked first as an importer with 15.9 million pounds valued at $1 million, or 31 percent of the total quantity and 24 percent of the total value. See table for exports to other countries.

Indonesia: Sisal exports in 1954

Country of destination	Exports		Country of destination	Exports	
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value
	1,000 pounds	1,000 dollars		1,000 pounds	1,000 dollars
United States	15,926	1,002	Czechoslovakia	576	48
Australia	12,702	1,204	Italy	563	54
Japan	7,260	655	China	494	50
Netherlands	5,817	524	Sweden	476	43
Germany	5,078	460	Other Europe	991	90
Belgium and			Other Countries	725	68
Luxembourg	848	62	Total	51,456	4,258

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from data of the Indonesian Central Statistical Office.

Stocks of abaca and sisal together at the end of 1954 totalled 14.4 million pounds, according to the Central Statistical Office of Indonesia. The two fibers are not reported separately. (Cont'd., next page.)

No abaca or sisal are sold on the Djakarta market. Prices for sisal were recently quoted at Ŀ 84 per ton, or roughly 10.7 cents per pound, c.i.f. Europe. Trade circles in Indonesia report that competition on the fibers market has kept the price too low for reasonable profits. Some improvement, however, is hoped for as a result of the inclusion, by the Indonesian government, of fibers among the "weak products" included in the parallel transactions scheme. Production in the current year is expected to be at about the same level as in 1954.

INDONESIAN KAPOK EXPORT OUTLOOK CONSIDERED GOOD

Indonesian kapok exporters consider the foreign market situation good, despite relatively high domestic prices and competition from the foam-rubber industry, according to the Kapok Institute of Indonesia.

Total production of kapok in Indonesia was more than 26.6 million pounds in 1954, as reported from the American Embassy, Djakarta. Of this quantity, 3.3 million pounds were produced by the estates and 23.3 million pounds by smallholders. Production in the past year was an increase over both the 17.6 million pounds of 1953 and the 15.4 million of 1952. The total expected during the 1954-55 season is estimated at less than 14 million pounds, according to a market report published by a business firm in Surabaya.

According to the Kapok Institute, which was established in July, 1954, there are 6,715,000 kapok trees in Central Java, and 6,216,000 trees in East Java, covering an area of more than 190,000 acres on Java and Madura Islands. The average production is estimated at about 1,500 pounds or more per acre.

Indonesian exports of kapok in 1954 were about 10.6 million pounds, valued at 4.1 million dollars--or somewhat less than the 11.1 million pounds, at a little over 1.4 million dollars, in 1953. The Netherlands and the United States ranked first and second, respectively, as markets. The table below gives exports by countries in 1954:

Indonesia: Kapok exports in 1954

Countries of destination	Exports		Countries of destination	Exports	
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value
	1,000 pounds	1,000 dollars		1,000 pounds	1,000 dollars
Netherlands	4,052	1,516	Belgium-Lux.	353	133
United States	3,396	1,292	Italy	250	94
New Zealand	987	428	Other countries	674	261
Australia	888	372	Total	10,600	4,096

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from data of the Indonesian Central Statistical Office.

Prices of kapok have not shown much variation from the price pattern in 1953. According to the Office of Export Control, exports can be made to the United States at about 45 to 46 cents a pound, less commission.

GOLD COAST COCOA PRODUCERS TO GET MORE FOR BEANS

According to a recent despatch, the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board will pay producers $417.85 per long ton for 1955 mid-crop and 1955-56 main-crop cocoa beans. The new price will become effective May 20, 1955--official opening date of the 1955 mid-crop marketing season.

This represents and increase in producer price of $41.78 per long ton, or $1.12 (8 shillings) per 60-pound head load, over the price established for the 1953-54 season and the 1954-55 main crop.

A comparison of the new price with prices paid by the Marketing Board during the past 6 seasons is shown in the following table:

Cocoa Bean Prices Per Long Ton Paid Producers
By Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board
(U. S. Dollars)

1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55 Main Crop	1955 Mid-crop 1955-56 Main Crop
Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
235.04	365.62	417.85	365.28	376.07	376.07	417.85

Source: Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board.
Rate of Exchange used in Conversions: 1 British West African £ = $2.80

The newly established price is the same as that paid during the 1951-52 season and is 78 percent more than the price paid in 1949-50. Even so it is still $141.78 less per ton than the price being paid to producers in Nigeria during the current season for Grade I cocoa beans. In Nigeria, as in the Gold Coast, all cocoa beans are purchased by Marketing Boards established by law. Under this system producer prices are fixed at the beginning of the marketing season and normally are not changed throughout the year, regardless of fluctuations in the world market price of cocoa beans.

With the unprecedented rise in the world market price of cocoa beans during 1953-54, Gold Coast farmers anticipated an increase in price at the beginning of the 1954-55 season, but it did not materialize. Consequently, considerable dissatisfaction was reported among producers, which influenced the rise of a formidable political movement. Therefore, the increase in price, now granted under conditions of a falling world market, appears to serve the primary purpose of allaying the increasing unrest among Gold Coast cocoa bean producers.

MARCH U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS NEARLY 70 PERCENT HIGHER THAN YEAR AGO

U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in March 1955 totaled 36.8 million pounds, valued at $21.5 million. This export figure is about 70 percent higher than for March 1954, when exports were 21.7 million pounds, valued at $12.9 million. There were substantially increases in practically all types of tobacco -- particularly Burley, Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Maryland, One Sucker, Cigar Wrapper, and Cigar Binder. There were decreases in exports of Virginia fire-cured tobacco and Perique.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 24.2 million pounds in March 1955, and increase of about 43 percent over exports of 16.9 million pounds in March 1954. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the United Kingdom were 1.6 million pounds in March, compared with exports of 1.4 million pounds in March 1954. There were larger takings in March 1955, compared with the same month last year, by Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Luxembourg, West Germany, the Philippines, and Egypt. Exports of flue-cured tobacco decreased to the Netherlands in March 1955, compared with the same month last year.

Exports of Burley tobacco totaled 4.6 million pounds in March, compared with 1.5 million pounds in March 1954 - - about a 200 percent increase. More than half the increase (3.0 million pounds) is due to large shipments of Burley to Belgium and Luxembourg, West Germany, and Austria.

Exports of dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee totaled 3.7 million pounds in March 1955, compared with 1.6 million pounds in the corresponding month last year. The bulk of the exports (3.1 million pounds) went to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, and West Germany.

Exports of Maryland tobacco totaled 901,000 pounds in March 1955, compared with 131,000 pounds in March 1954. Four countries (the Netherlands, West Germany, Switzerland, and Spain) took practically the entire shipment for the month of March - - 895,000 pounds.

There were increases in exports of Green River and One Sucker tobacco. Madagascar, for the first time in several years, took 240,000 pounds of Green River and 928,000 pounds of One Sucker tobacco. France took 389,000 pounds of One Sucker tobacco in March, more than was shipped to France for the entire year 1954 (320,000 pounds).

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the January-March 1955 period totaled 95.8 million pounds, compared with 71.1 million pounds for January-March 1954 - - and increase of about 35 percent. Exports of flue-cured tobacco increased for the first 3 months of 1955 - - totaling 70.5 million pounds, compared with 58.3 million pounds for the same period in 1954. Shipments to the United Kingdom for January-March 1955 were lower -- 10.2 million pounds, compared with 12.3 million pounds for the corresponding period in 1954. Exports to West Germany increased about 68 percent for January-March 1955 - - 11.6 million pounds, compared with 6.9 million pounds for the same period in 1954.

There were increases in exports of most other types of tobaccos for January-March 1955, with the exception of Cigar Binder and Cigar Filler.

U. S. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco, March 1955, and January-March 1955, with comparisons

(Export Weight)

Type	March		Percent Change	January-March		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds		1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	
Flue-cured	16,955	24,169	+42.5	58,305	70,496	+20.9
Burley	1,557	4,607	+195.9	4,239	9,877	+133.0
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.	1,631	3,670	+125.0	3,466	6,067	+75.0
Virginia fire-cured	430	197	-54.2	767	970	+26.5
Maryland	131	901	+587.8	980	1,753	+78.9
Green River	485	590	+21.6	771	1,435	+86.1
One Sucker	51	1,533	+2,905.9	158	1,565	+890.5
Cigar Wrapper	117	291	+148.7	560	810	+44.6
Cigar Binder	8	33	+312.5	347	328	-5.5
Cigar Filler	8	-	-	147	3	-98.0
Other	343	857	+149.8	1,384	2,502	+80.8
Total	21,716	36,848	+69.7	71,124	95,806	+34.7
Declared value million dollars	12.9	21.5	+66.7	46.5	60.0	+29.0

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of tobacco products, valued at $5.3 million, were about 8 percent higher in March 1955 than for the same month last year. There were increases in exports of cigars and cheroots and smoking tobacco in packages and bulk.

Exports of cigarettes and chewing tobacco and snuff decreased in March 1955 compared with March 1954. Exports of cigarettes and smoking tobacco in packages and bulk increased during January-March 1955. Exports of cigars and cheroots, chewing tobacco and snuff decreased during this period.

(See also table, "Exports of U. S. Tobacco Products, March 1955, with comparisons," next page.)

Exports of U. S. tobacco products, March 1955, with comparisons

Type	March		Percent Change	January-March		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
Cigars & Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	467	603	+29.1	2,000	1,404	-29.8
Cigarettes (million pieces)	1,254	1,243	-0.9	3,711	3,799	+2.4
Chewing tobacco & Snuff (1,000 pounds)	166	104	-37.4	389	290	-24.5
Smoking tobacco in packages (1,000 pounds)	38	60	+57.9	126	152	+20.6
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds)	411	735	+78.8	664	1,496	+125.3
Declared Value (million dollars)	4.9	5.3	+ 8.2	14.5	16.0	+10.3

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

YUGOSLAV TOBACCO EXPORTS TO SOVIET BLOC INCREASE

Significant quantities of Yugoslavian fermented leaf tobacco have been shipped to various countries of the Soviet Bloc in the second half of 1954 and first quarter of 1955. New bilateral agreements were signed between Yugoslavia and East Germany, U.S.S.R., and Czechoslavakia after July 1, and by the end of the year these countries had taken more than 2.1 million pounds of fermented tobacco valued at $1,225,000. These exports accounted for 16.6 percent of total quantity and 18.2 percent of total value of fermented leaf exports from Yugoslavia for the year. Since January 1, bilateral agreements have been completed with other Soviet Bloc countries, and these countries have been meeting their agreement quotas.

Yugoslavia's exports of fermented leaf tobacco in 1954 amounted to 12.8 million pounds valued at $6.7 million. France received about 3.3 million pounds at a cost of $1.6 million, and the United States took almost 3.2 million pounds valued at $2 million. Other important outlets in addition to the Iron Curtain countries were West Germany and Austria, which took 1.4 and 1 million pounds, respectively. In addition to the fermented leaf exports, Yugoslavia shipped more than 2.6 million pounds of unfermented leaf tobacco, all of which was taken by Italy.

Total tobacco production in Yugoslavia amounted to 64.4 million pounds in 1954. Oriental tobacco accounted for 37.7 million pounds or about 59 percent of the total; 16.5 million pounds or 26 percent was semi-oriental; and the remainder was dark air-cured cigar tobacco. Production in 1955 is expected to be considerably higher than in 1954, as the Yugoslav Tobacco Institute is attempting to increase production as rapidly as possible in order to meet new commitments to the Iron Curtain countries as well as to retain other markets.

TOBACCO EXPORTERS BUYING HEAVILY IN MARYLAND AUCTIONS

Tobacco dealers who normally buy for export have been buying heavily on the Maryland Auction Market, which opened May 3 this year. Export customers are an important outlet for Maryland leaf as they have paid about 23 cents out of each dollar the Maryland farmer has received for tobacco and taken about 17 percent of the crop during the last 5 years.

FRENCH REDUCE SUMMER MILK PRICE

According to a report from the American Embassy in Paris, the French Government has set the producer's price of milk for the period May 1 to September 30, at $2.80 a hundred-weight. This is a reduction of about 47 cents a hundred-weight from prices in effect since last fall. The retail price of milk will be reduced proportionately.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES IN INDIA

Milk production in India during 1954 is estimated at 44.8 billion pounds, according to Clifford C. Taylor, Agricultural Counselor, American Embassy, New Delhi. This production, about 5 percent greater than that recorded for 1953, was obtained from an estimated 19 million cows, 10 million milking water buffalos, and 5 million goats. Other animals, such as sheep and camels, also contributed small amounts to total milk production.

In India about 36 percent of the available domestic supply is consumed as fluid milk, 45 percent is utilized in the manufacture of ghee, and the rest in the production (primarily farm and village output) of other milk products.

Complete data are not yet available on foreign trade for the marketing year, but it appears that imports of whole milk powder will be 10 to 12 percent under the 2.8 million pounds received during the 1953-54 period. Imports of nonfat dry milk solids will probably exceed the high receipts of 1953-54, which totaled more than 39 million pounds.

MILK OUTPUT GAINS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

An increase of 5 percent in milk cow numbers over 1953 has resulted in a like increase in milk production in the Dominican Republic, with a 1954 production record of more than 147 million pounds.

Furthermore, according to John Montel, Agricultural Officer, American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, more of the production found its way into factory processing. Factory butter production during 1954 totaled more than 984,000 pounds, an increase of 42 percent over the previous year while cheese production was 3 percent greater at 2.3 million pounds. Ice cream production rose 16 percent during the year and amounted to 1.3 million pounds during 1954.

SWISS CHEESE UNION VISITORS EXAMINE U.S. MARKET PROBLEMS

The Chairman of the Swiss Cheese Union, Dr. Rudolf Probst, and Director George Lemann have just returned to Switzerland from a tour of several weeks in the United States. The objectives of the visit to the United States were to appoint a new agent of the Cheese Union in New York and to examine the market problems of Swiss hard cheese in the American market.

According to a report from the Economic Section of the American Embassy, Geneva, the Swiss say they have several problems confronting them on the United States Market. One of these is increased sales on the American market of cheese in the form of sandwich cuts and slices. The Swiss, however, have decided to continue exporting Swiss cheese in wheels; the retail packing to be done by wholesalers and retailers in this country. The Swiss are concerned that these packages be marked in such a way that the consumers will know they are purchasing cheese from Switzerland.

The Swiss also feel they have been subjected to unfair competition. Some 25 years ago the Swiss registered in the United States a trade mark of the Cheese Union. Red markings similar to the Swiss design have now begun to appear on cheeses from other sources. Furthermore, these imitation markings have included the use of the word "land" in the trade mark. The Swiss say this further confuses the name with Switzerland once the cheese has been cut for retailing. While in this country, the Swiss delegates consulted a lawyer in Washington about the possibility of invoking the Fair Trade Act.

Before making the trip the Swiss had the impression that the rindless, block cheese of American production was a threat to the Swiss cheese. However, the Swiss now believe that this particular product does not pose any particular competition.

As a whole, the Swiss found the market situation in the United States good. They did feel, however, that the Swiss share of the market remainded stationary despite increased consumption of cheese products. The Swiss hope to increase their annual sales in the United States from just under 8 million pounds annually to at least 8.8 million pounds.

CUBA PERMITS FREE ENTRY OF EGGS

The Cuban Government has exempted hen eggs from import duties until July 15, 1955, by Decree No. 1274 of May 6, 1955, published in the Official Gazette, May 10, 1955. To qualify for free entry, eggs must weigh not less than 18 ounces per dozen. The exemption was made in an effort to forestall a seasonal shortage of fresh eggs.

In 1954 Cuba imported more than 216,000 cases of fresh eggs, all from the United States. Duty-free entry of fresh eggs was previously discontinued January 15, 1955, with the expiration of Decree No. 1825 of June 24, 1954.

SOUTH AFRICA'S WOOL SHIPMENTS TO U. S. LARGEST IN 5 YEARS

Exports of wool from South Africa to the United States were reported to be the largest in 5 years during the period July 1, 1954, to March 31, 1955.

The actual quantities shipped to the United States during the July-March period, with comparisons for the corresponding months of the preceding season, are shown in the accompanying table. (Text cont'd. P. 621)

Union of South Africa: Exports of Wool to the United States, July 1 to March 31, 1953-54 and 1954-55 Seasons

Item	1953-54	1954-55
	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds
Grease wool	20,357	24,558
Scoured wool	1,018	1,692
Tops	6	35
Noils	86	179
Wooled sheepskins	3	263

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis,
on Australian Auction floors, by quality
classification

	70's		64's		60's		58's	56's	50's
	Super	Average	Super	Average	Super	Average	Good	Good	Good
	U. S. Dollars per Pound								
Monthly Averages									
1953-54									
Sept.	1.89	1.81	1.75	1.60	1.52	1.42	1.32	1.07	.89
Oct.	1.90	1.80	1.73	1.60	1.49	1.42	1.35	1.19	.97
Nov.	1.96	1.82	1.73	1.61	1.50	1.42	1.34	1.18	.97
Dec.	1.96	1.76	1.67	1.58	1.45	1.35	1.31	1.14	.93
Jan.	1.95	1.74	1.63	1.54	1.41	1.32	1.26	1.08	.92
Feb.	1.89	1.68	1.59	1.49	1.38	1.27	1.19	1.13	.89
March	1.82	1.64	1.55	1.49	1.35	1.24	1.19	1.04	.88
April	1.79	1.66	1.59	1.54	1.42	1.31	1.28	1.14	.96
May	1.82	1.69	1.62	1.58	1.48	1.38	1.34	1.22	1.02
June	1.87	1.74	1.67	1.62	1.55	1.43	1.35	1.25	1.04
1954-55									
Sept.	1.63	1.56	1.48	1.40	1.39	1.29	1.26	1.18	.98
Oct.	1/ 1.62	1.53	1.45	1.36	1/ 1.34	1.23	1.21	1.15	.99
Nov.	1.57	1.44	1.35	1.28	1.22	1.16	1.09	1.00	.90
Dec.	1.60	1.47	1.38	1.32	1.26	1.21	1.14	1.04	.90
Jan.	1.56	1.43	1.34	1.28	1.22	1.17	1.11	1.03	.90
Feb.	1.58	1.47	1.37	1.32	1.25	1.19	1.15	1.05	.93
March	1.47	1.39	1.30	1.26	1.20	1.15	1.12	1.04	.92
April	1.44	1.37	1.31	1.31	1.21	1.17	1.15	1.07	.94
Weekly Averages									
1954									
March 12	1.85	1.66	1.54	1.48	1.33	1.23	1.18	1.03	.88
" 19	1.80	1.64	1.55	1.49	1.36	1.24	1.19	1.03	.88
" 26	1.78	1.62	1.57	1.51	1.38	1.26	1.22	1.06	.90
April 2	1.79	1.64	1.58	1.53	1.40	1.28	1.25	1.10	.91
" 30	1.79	1.67	1.60	1.56	1.46	1.34	1.32	1.19	1.00
May 7	1.81	1.67	1.61	1.57	1.47	1.36	1.33	1.21	1.02
1955									
March 11	1.54	1.46	1.34	1.31	1.24	1.19	1.16	1.06	.94
" 18	1.53	1.44	1.33	1.31	1.24	1.19	1.17	1.08	.96
" 25	1.49	1.40	1.33	1.30	1.24	1.19	1.17	1.09	.96
April 1	1.46	1.38	1.32	1.29	1.23	1.18	1.16	1.08	.95
" 22	1.43	1.36	1.30	1.27	1.20	1.16	1.15	1.07	.94
" 29	1.44	1.36	1.30	1.27	1.20	1.16	1.14	1.07	.94
May 6	1.44	1.39	1.30	1.29	1.20	1.16	1.12	1.05	.92

1/ Quotation Nominal

Source: Wool Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau.

(SOUTH AFRICA'S WOOL ... Cont'd. from p. 619) Shipments of greasy wool during the July-March period of the current season were largest to the United Kingdom, 45.6 million pounds; France, 32.6 million; Germany, 30.1 million; United States 24.6 million; Italy, 16.1 million; Belgium; 11.3 million; U.S.S.R., 8.2 million; and Japan, 8.1 million.

The weighted average market price for South African greasy wool (including Karakul) for the first 9 months of the current season was 58.2 cents per pound as compared with 69.7 cents for the corresponding months of the previous season.

WORLD HORSE NUMBERS DECLINE; FARM MECHANIZATION CONTINUES

World horse numbers continued to decline during 1954 in North America, Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, but changed little in Eastern Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa. The world total of around 74.5 million head was about 1 percent less than a year earlier, 1 percent below the 1946-50 average, and 22 percent less than in prewar, on the basis of the latest information of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

In recent years numbers by geographic areas have shown contrasting trends. Horses have decreased noticeably in North America, Western Europe, and Oceania; they have been increasing in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R., but their numbers have changed little.

Many countries in Eastern Europe, the Near East, Far East, Africa, and Latin America are still doing much of their farming by animal power and hand labor. Shortages of work stock are reported to be a factor holding down agricultural production in India, China, Vietnam, the U.S.S.R., and the Republic of the Philippines. In the Orient, cattle and water buffalo are used extensively for draft purposes. However, some countries in this area are shifting away from the use of animal draft power at a fast pace. In Jamaica, Panama, Uruguay, Argentina, Israel, and Turkey, tractors are in common use and are being used quite extensively in Peru, Egypt, French Morocco, and Tunisia. Tractor numbers are also increasing markedly in the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia.

The decline in world horse numbers since prewar reflects the mechanization of agriculture. Farmers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, other Western European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay, and Argentina have attained a high degree of farm mechanization and are rapidly increasing the number of tractors used. Farmers in the United States operate 60 to 65 percent of all tractors used in agriculture in the world.

(See tables, pp. 622 and 623. Text continues p. 624.)

HORSES: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40, and 1946-50, annual 1950-1955

Continent and Country	Month of estimate 1/	Average 1934-38	Average 1946-50	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 2/	1955 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	June 1	2,864	1,923	1,683	1,304	1,180	1,096	-	-
Mexico	June 1	3/ 2,199	-	2,900	-	2,800	-	-	-
Nicaragua		-	-	-	-	135	135	135	135
United States	Jan. 1	11,570	6,754	5,548	4,993	4,330	3,798	3,401	3,106
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	582	4/ 408	-	-	412	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	June	5/ 273	5/ 135	134	134	129	125	-	-
Estimated total		18,600	13,000	11,900	11,000	10,000	9,400	8,700	7,900
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	4/6/ 261	277	282	283	276	267	259	245
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/ 245	282	257	247	234	211	205	193
Denmark	July 15	553	572	502	465	422	399	358	-
Finland	June 15	7/ 372	390	400	382	369	339	326	-
France	Oct. 1 1/	2,808	2,370	2,414	2,397	2,380	2,334	2,277	2,216
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	5/ 1,542	1,596	1,629	1,570	1,455	1,360	1,271	1,172
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	356	233	232	251	292	315	318	320
Iceland	Spring	46	49	42	42	41	-	-	-
Ireland	June	429	421	391	367	342	329	313	-
Italy	Jan. 1	4/6/ 801	5/ 760	798	797	768	733	706	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	4/ 17	16	15	14	14	13	13	11
Netherlands	May	293	327	275	270	260	249	242	-
Norway	June 20	186	212	191	184	175	168	159	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain 8/	Dec. 31 1/	-	5/ 624	642	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	Summer	615	509	440	415	362	344	321	292
Switzerland	April	4/ 140	143	134	131	131	128	125	123
United Kingdom	June	1,107	696	549	478	414	370	-	-
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	1/ 1,220	5/ 1,073	1,097	1,095	1,102	1,121	1,193	1,239
Estimated total		19,200	16,200	16,600	16,400	16,300	15,900	15,600	15,300
Western Europe		11,500	10,600	10,400	10,100	9,800	9,500	9,200	8,900
Other Europe		7,700	5,600	6,200	6,300	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,400
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	4/ 19,900	-	-	13,700	14,700	15,300	-	-

ASIA													
Iran	Mar. 21	5/	328	5/	350	365		366	360		365	370	375
Iraq		4/	150	5/	189	184		210	230		250	270	292
Syria	Dec. 31 1/		58		112	98		100	101		105	-	-
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	5/	915		1,076	1,132		1,140	1,173		1,216	1,201	-
China 9/.....................	May	4/	6,100	4/	4,600	4,800		4,900	5,200		5,600	-	-
Outer Mongolia		4/	1,550		-	-		-	-		-	-	-
India	Dec. 31 1/	4/	1,850		-	-		1,556	1,534		-	-	-
Indochina		7/	105		-	26		-	-		-	-	-
Indonesia	Jan. 1	1/	652		-	494		-	549		593	621	-
Japan	Feb. 1	1/	1,330		1,067	1,071		1,062	1,112		1,090	1,022	-
Pakistan	Dec. 31 1/	4/	535	4/	470	-		-	470		470	-	-
Philippine Islands.......	Jan. 1	4/	340		181	206		207	214		219	249	242
Thailand	Mar. 31		364		-	-		-	62		64	-	-
Estimated total			15,100		12,700	12,900		12,500	13,500		14,000	14,000	14,100
SOUTH AMERICA													
Argentina.....................	July 1	4/	8,290	4/	7,238	-		-	-		-	-	-
Brazil	Dec. 31 1/	5/	6,149	4/	6,746	-	1/	6,937	-		7,111	7,059	7,000
Chile	June	5/	489	5/	462	460		-	460		-	-	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	5/	941		1,156	1,236		1,298	-		-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	5/	229		345	294		316	250		-	-	-
Peru		4/	400	5/	507	518		550	-		-	-	-
Uruguay	April	4/	644	4/	550	-		667	-	1/	645	540	640
Estimated total			17,700		17,600	17,600		17,600	17,500		17,500	17,500	17,300
AFRICA:													
Algeria			176		201	209		215	216		216	204	-
French Morocco 10/	Dec. 31 1/		216		170	165		179	190		205	-	-
Nigeria and Cameroons ...			179		-	-		212	-		-	-	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/		108		80	66		70	-		-	-	-
Union of South Africa ...	Aug.	4/	778	4/	712	-		-	-		-	-	-
Estimated total			2,900		2,900	2,800		2,900	2,900		2,900	2,900	2,900
OCEANIA													
Australia.....................	Mar. 31	1/	1,761		1,159	1,057		999	937		895	823	-
New Zealand.....................	Jan. 31		274		204	195		184	174		158	158	-
Estimated total			2,100		1,400	1,300		1,200	1,100		1,100	1,000	1,000
Estimated world total			95,500		75,100	75,800		75,300	76,000		76,100	75,200	74,500

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Cuba the December 31, 1951 of 412,000 head is shown under 1952. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of 1930 and 1940 census. 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 6/ March. 7/ September. 8/ One year old and older. 9/ 1950 figure includes 22 provinces, Manchuria and Sinkiang. Excludes Outer Mongolia. Figures for 1951, 1952 and 1953 are National estimate of China mainland. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 10/ Data include only number taxed.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representativesabroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service, May 1955.

A continuation of the current trends in numbers is expected. Animal power is likely to continue to be the principal method of crop tillage, and an important source of transportation in many areas of Asia and the Orient and in some areas of Africa and Central and South America. But it seems probable that animal draft power will give way to the increased use of tractors, automobiles, and trucks in Eastern Europe, the U.S.S.R., and many areas of Africa and South America in the years ahead.

The number of tractors in use in agriculture in the world (excluding Russia and mainland China) in early 1954, was estimated at 6.7 million units, compared with less than 2 million in 1939. In recent years the number of tractors in use has been increasing at a rate of approximately 500,000 a year.

Mules and Asses

The number of mules and asses in the world apparently is around 50 million head. These animals contribute materially to agricultural output in a number of countries. Numbers are at high levels in China, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, India, and Pakistan. Numbers in Brazil have been well maintained in recent years. However, the number of mules in the United States in January 1955 was only 1.4 million, 69 percent less than the prewar average. Numbers of donkeys and mules in Italy also are substantially below prewar.

Water Buffalos

The number of buffalos in the world apparently totals approximately 78 million head. In recent years numbers have continued to increase in India, which has the largest number, in the Philippine Republic, Turkey, China, Indonesia, and Pakistan. In each of these countries buffalos are used for draft purposes and as milk producers. In most countries they also make important contributions to the meat supply through the slaughter of surplus young stock and over-aged animals.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

WORLD COTTON CROP ESTIMATE REVISED UPWARD

World cotton production in 1954-55 is now estimated at 36.8 million bales (of 500 pounds gross), and upward revision of .6 million from the January estimate and 1.2 million higher than a revised estimate of 38.0 million bales for 1953-54. Growing and harvesting conditions were generally good in the Northern hemisphere and poor in the Southern hemisphere. As a result, recent production estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries are higher by a total of 835,000 bales while the total for the Southern Hemisphere, mostly Brazil and Argentina, was reduced by 225,000 bales.

United States acreage, under restriction in 1954, was reduced by 21 percent. Production was less than in 1953 by 2.8 million bales or 17 percent, with average yield reaching an all time record of 341 pounds per harvested acre. Production in foreign Free World countries reached a record level of 15.1 million bales in 1954-55, an increase of 1.3 million bales or 10 percent over that of a year earlier. Increased production in nearly all of these countries is attributed to larger acreage but in Mexico, expansion of irrigation facilities was the principal means for increasing production.

Production in Communist countries as a whole in 1954-55 apparently was higher by about 250,000 bales, with an estimated increase of around 500,000 in the Soviet Union partly offset by a decreased half that amount in China. World production in the past 3 years has exceeded world consumption by 1 to 3 million bales or an average of about 2.5 million bales annually.

A more detailed discussion of world cotton production is contained in _Foreign Agriculture Circular_ FC 2-55 of February 1, 1955. There have been no significant changes in subsequent information received except for the revisions in estimates mentioned above.

(See tables, pp. 626 and 627.)

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of U. S. Agricultural Attaches and other FAS representatives abroad.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS UP SLIGHTLY FROM LAST MONTH

Exports of cotton from the United States in March amounted to 382,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (369,000 running bales), representing a gain of 20 percent over the 319,000 bales exported in February, but 63,000 bales below March 1954.

Exports of 2,741,000 bales (2,637,000 running bales) during August-March are still 12 percent above those for a similar period a year ago. A month earlier the lead over last year's comparable total was 18 percent. (Text cont., p. 628.)

COTTON: Acreage and production in specified areas, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-54 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Production 2/				
	Average					Average				
	1935-39	1945-49	1952	1953 3/	1954 3/	1935-39	1945-49	1952	1953 3/	1954 3/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
NORTH AMERICA										
El Salvador	9	35	71	54	73	5	21	47	57	75
Guatemala	-	8	22	27	40	2	5	16	27	35
Mexico	725	1,034	1,937	1,860	1,820	334	577	1,250	1,210	1,780
Nicaragua	9	11	64	100	190	5	7	57	109	175
United States	27,788	21,258	25,921	24,341	19,251	13,149	12,104	15,139	16,465	13,679
British West Indies	20	12	13	13	-	5	4	4	3	-
Haiti	-	37	40	40	50	22	10	7	7	8
Total 4/	28,642	22,403	28,095	26,461	21,459	13,523	12,730	16,531	17,888	15,765
EUROPE										
Bulgaria 5/	85	82	-	-	-	35	20	-	-	-
Greece	168	111	203	220	269	76	52	111	139	184
Italy	56	40	118	124	125	21	11	32	35	42
Rumania 5/	8	102	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Spain	46	130	150	175	185	10	18	65	75	85
Yugoslavia	8	-	18	18	29	3	-	3	4	8
Total 4/	372	511	689	867	938	147	127	256	323	389
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	5,087	3,697	-	-	-	3,430	2,328	-	-	-
ASIA										
Aden	-	-	11	22	45	-	-	9	18	32
Cyprus	11	5	13	13	13	3	1	3	3	3
Iran	453	239	450	555	620	171	85	165	240	275
Iraq	53	22	125	51	100	11	5	13	17	35
Syria	85	59	457	370	460	28	32	207	220	350
Turkey	667	645	1,669	1,495	1,440	249	268	690	638	600
Afghanistan	-	-	-	100	80	49	16	62	60	40
Burma	428	178	450	400	400	97	32	110	95	93
China (incl. Manchuria)	7,038	5,831	9,350	10,200	9,600	2,855	1,939	2,900	3,200	2,950
French Indochina	36	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-
India	6/ 24,204	11,306	15,693	17,027	18,000	6/ 5,348	2,304	3,005	3,730	3,900
Korea 7/	564	344	225	-	-	198	89	74	75	80
Indonesia	27	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	2	-
Pakistan	6/	2,965	3,467	3,100	3,400	6/	1,024	1,525	1,215	1,245
Thailand	16	84	97	100	-	7	26	32	39	-
Total 4/	33,805	21,827	32,158	33,727	34,571	9,038	5,835	8,809	9,563	9,654

SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina	770	962	1,316	1,352	1,350	289	427	575	635	500
Brazil	5,562	4,520	4,500	4,000	4,500	1,956	1,352	1,560	1,465	1,600
Colombia	98	-	150	200	230	23	27	50	92	122
Ecuador	40	41	31	36	36	13	11	10	12	12
Paraguay	111	123	130	150	173	40	47	53	62	62
Peru	428	345	482	531	540	379	308	450	475	505
Venezuela	50	-	35	30	50	11	11	12	13	16
Total 4/	7,060	6,177	6,648	6,304	6,885	2,711	2,184	2,711	2,756	2,820
AFRICA AND OCEANIA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	439	371	620	652	685	248	246	386	400	409
Belgian Congo	874	745	900	900	900	172	195	208	240	235
Kenya	-	51	56	87	-	13	6	8	14	11
Nyasaland	84	-	-	-	-	12	8	13	9	10
Tanganyika	-	-	207	190	-	50	38	65	42	82
Uganda	1,477	1,324	1,468	1,611	1,728	281	227	267	331	300
Canary Islands	-	2	7	5	-	-	1	6	3	-
Egypt	1,821	1,367	2,042	1,375	1,639	1,893	1,456	2,047	1,461	1,598
French Equatorial Africa	390	-	-	625	700	41	104	130	130	150
French North Africa	1	5	35	28	-	8/	2	17	15	-
French West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	28	14	28	28	-
Mozambique	-	557	700	700	710 9/	33	104	185	145	130
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	36	48	90	135	165
Angola	73	-	-	120	-	13	24	29	29	30
Southern Rhodesia	2	5	-	10	-	8/	2	3	2	-
Union of South Africa	-	12	60	60	-	2	3	19	20	22
Australia	53	5	10	9	20	11	1	4	4	8
Total 4/	6,176	5,710	7,585	7,091	7,797	2,840	2,483	3,513	3,020	3,212
World total 4/	81,142	60,325	81,975	81,450	79,450	31,689	25,687	35,820	38,050	36,840

1/ Years refer to crop years, beginning August 1, in which major portion of crop was harvested. 2/ Production in bales of 478 pounds net prior to 1946 and 480 pounds thereafter. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Pakistan included with India. 7/ South Korea only, after 1941. 8/ Less than 500. 9/ Exports.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad and results of office research.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS ... (Cont'd. from p. 625.)

The lag in export shipments that began in February is still continuing. Foreign buyers are reducing their stocks to the lowest possible level because of uncertainty in regard to price trends in coming months. Stocks in most European countries at the end of February were equivalent to only 2.0 to 3.5 months requirements, the lowest since the end of World War II. Currant trade reports indicate some sporadic buying recently where further reduction in stocks is not practical.

Prices of foreign-grown cotton have weakened in the past 6 to 8 weeks. Some foreign growths are now priced on European markets as much as 3 cents a pound lower than similar quality United States cotton. As a result there have been recent moderate increases in sales of foreign cotton. The surpluses available abroad for export are not quite as large as those of a year ago and are composed almost entirely of 1954-55 crops which were not moved freely during the first half of the current season.

A number of agreements were concluded in April, under the provisions of Public Law 480, which will stimulate export sales of United States cotton. The accumulated total for cotton in such agreements through May 6, 1955 of $42,775,000 covers cost of about 222,000 bales distributed as follows: Yugoslavia 55,000 bales, Pakistan 100,000, Bolivia 5,000, (under the Title II of the law), Spain 40,000, Israel 6,000, and Finland 16,000. Additional agreements are expected to be announced before the end of the current season but a large part of the cotton mentioned above will probably not be shipped until the early part of next season.

Procurement authorizations issued by the Foreign Operations Administration before June 30, 1954 for shipments to be made after August 1, 1954 total $88.3 million to cover cost of about 482,000 bales. Procurement authorizations issued since June 30, 1954 and before April 30, 1955 for shipment during the current season now total $144.5 million and will cover costs of about 766,000 bales. Additional procurement authorizations totaling $57.9 million were issued recently to cover about 298,000 bales to be shipped after August 1, 1955.

An Export-Import Bank loan of $6 million for Austria was announced on April 22, 1955 and will cover costs of about 30,000 bales.

Negotiation of agreements for export of cotton under the various export programs has made good progress in recent months but many of the foreign buyers have requested deferment of delivery until new crop months. This factor together with additional time needed to implement recent agreements delay the heaviest effect of the programs until next season. Exports during the 1954-55 year are expected to total slightly less than 4.0 million bales. - - By Charles H. Barber.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54; August-March 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Crop year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1952	1953	August-March	
	1935-39	1945-49			1953-54	1954-55
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	0	[1] 36	47	42	30	13
Belgium-Luxembourg	169	131	73	68	43	60
Czechoslovakia	65	57	0	0	0	0
Denmark	33	14	34	23	15	17
Finland	35	21	4	10	0	4
France	662	575	507	475	319	327
Germany	511	340	241	389	276	309
Italy	442	489	272	269	167	176
Netherlands	107	131	79	104	67	84
Norway	17	7	11	14	9	10
Poland and Danzig	180	69	0	0	0	0
Portugal	36	[2]	1	0	0	0
Spain	108	69	77	167	91	101
Sweden	115	12	36	43	29	44
Switzerland	11	26	28	24	20	36
United Kingdom	1,346	488	359	422	254	358
Yugoslavia	17	47	86	40	21	76
Other Europe	31	[3] 33	6	10	6	8
Total Europe	3,885	2,545	1,861	2,100	1,347	1,623
Australia	9	7	11	45	25	37
Canada	301	275	284	237	149	223
Chile	9	20	1	27	15	9
China	117	401	0	0	0	0
Colombia	20	24	35	7	3	1
Cuba	11	16	12	20	10	17
French Indochina	22	6	18	16	12	0
Formosa	[4]	1	107	110	77	80
India	52	86	45	161	68	59
Indonesia	[2]	5	17	22	17	19
Israel	[4]	5	14	12	8	12
Japan	1,142	585	691	1,005	618	520
Korea, Republic of	[4]	[5] 48	41	96	60	105
Philippines, Rep. of	2	4	16	8	3	5
Other countries	19	[6] 37	28	[7] 48	27	31
Total	5,589	4,065	3,181	3,914	2,439	2,741

[1] 4-year average. [2] Less than 500 bales. [3] Includes Greece 21. [4] If any, included in "Other countries". [5] 3-year average. [6] Includes Hong Kong 35. [7] Includes Ethiopia 11, French Morocco 9, and Hong Kong 9.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

NICARAGUA'S COTTON PRODUCTION
60 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR

Cotton production in Nicaragua during the 1954-55 crop year is estimated at 175,000 bales (500 pounds gross) an increase of 60 percent over production of 109,000 bales in 1953-54, according to Charles H. Barber, Foreign Agricultural Service cotton specialist, in a recent study of cotton production in Central American countries. Cotton production averaged only 4,000 bales annually in the first 4 postwar years, 1945-48, but has since increased with extreme rapidity, and is now Nicaragua's leading crop and largest export commodity. The area planted to cotton has increased from an average of 11,000 acres in 1945-49 to 100,000 acres in 1953-54, and 190,000 in 1954-55.

Nearly all of Nicaragua's cotton is available for export, since annual consumption amounts to only an approximate 5,000 bales. Heaviest export movement is during the months of March through August. Exports in August-February 1954-55, have so far been running behind last year's exports in the similar period, amounting to 15,000 bales this year as compared with 24,000 in August-February 1953-54. Exports for the entire year August-July 1953-54 amounted to 102,000 bales, as compared with 69,000 in 1952-53. Principal destinations of Nicaragua's cotton exports have been Japan, Western Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and other western European countries.

For more information on Nicaragua's cotton production, refer to Mr. Barber's report issued by this Service, Cotton Production Expanding in Central America, FC-4-55, May 18, 1955.

GUATEMALA EXPANDS
COTTON PRODUCTION

Expansion of cotton acreage in Guatemala has resulted in a crop of 35,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during the August-July crop year 1954-55, and further increases are anticipated for 1955-56, according to Charles H. Barber, Foreign Agricultural Service cotton specialist, in a recent study of cotton production in Central American countries. Cotton production averaged about 4,000 bales annually during the first 5 postwar years, 1945-49, but has increased rapidly since that time. Acreage planted to cotton has increased from an average of 8,000 in 1945-49 to 40,000 in 1954-55. Considerably more land is expected to be made available for cotton, with diversion of pasture land and clearing of jungle areas.

Guatemala's cotton consumption amounts to approximately 12,000 bales annually. Prior to 1951-52, most of their cotton was imported, but with the expanded production, some cotton is now available for export. Exports in 1953-54 amounted to 17,000 bales, the first year for any cotton exports. Exports in the current season, 1954-55, are expected to reach about 23,000 bales.

For additional information on cotton production in Guatemala, refer to Mr. Barber's report issued by this Service, Cotton Production Expanding in Central America, FC-4-55, May 18, 1955.

EL SALVADOR COTTON PRODUCTION CONTINUES RISE

El Salvador's 1954-55 cotton crop is estimated at approximately 75,000 bales (500 pounds gross) an increase of 30 percent over the 1953-54 crop of 57,000 bales, according to Charles H. Barber, Foreign Agricultural Service cotton specialist, in a recent study of cotton production in Central American countries. Cotton production averaged 21,000 bales annually during the first 5 postwar years, 1945-49, and has increased gradually during the intervening period.

The area planted to cotton has increased from an average of 35,000 acres in 1945-49, to 54,000 in 1953-54, and 73,000 in 1954-55. Yields now average about a bale to the acre, but intensive use of insecticides, mostly by airplane, is required for adequate control of cotton pests.

El Salvador has not increased cotton production as rapidly as some of the other Central American countries, since retention of land for adequate food production is necessitated by its heavy population, and the mountainous terrain limits the land area suitable for farming.

Cotton consumption in El Salvador amounts to approximately 13,000 bales annually, and the remainder of the crop is available for export. Exports in the marketing year August-July 1953-54 amounted to 42,000 bales, as compared with 46,000 in 1952-53. Principal destinations of El Salvador's cotton in these years have been Japan, the United Kingdom, Western Germany, and other western European countries.

For additional information on production of cotton in El Salvador, refer to Mr. Barber's report issued by this Service, Cotton Production Expanding in Central America, FC-4-55, May 18, 1955.

COLOMBIA MORE THAN DOUBLES COTTON OUTPUT IN 2 YEARS

Current estimates of the 1954-55 cotton crop in Colombia, based on almost complete ginning reports, indicate that production will amount to approximately 122,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 33 percent more than the 1953-54 crop of 92,000 bales, and more than double the 1952-53 crop of 50,000 bales, according to Quentin R. Bates Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bogota. Earlier forecasts for the 1954-55 crop had been for a much higher figure, but extremely unfavorable weather in northern Colombia brought about the reduction. Acreage for the 1954-55 crop was estimated at 230,000 an increase of 15 percent over the 200,000 acres for the 1953-54 crop, and 53 percent higher than the 1952-53 acreage of 150,000.

Colombia's cotton mill consumption amounted to approximately 135,000 bales in 1953-54, and the outlook for the current year is for an increase over the previous year's rate. This optimism is based on an increase in spinning capacity and the prevailing strong demand for textiles. To insure full utilization of domestic cotton, import duties on raw cotton, linters, cotton waste, and cotton yarn and thread were recently increased. The increased production will meet approximately 90 percent of consumption requirements. (Cont'd. p. 632.)

Colombia's cotton imports have declined rather sharply in the last 2 years, amounting to 73,000 bales in the marketing year 1952-53, and 36,000 in 1953-54. Imports in the first 6 months (August-January) of the 1954-55 year have amounted to 12,000 bales. Peru and the United States have been the principal sources of Columbia's cotton, with Peru supplying the bulk of cotton imports since 1952-53.

Milk stocks of domestic cotton on February 28, 1955, amounted to 44,000 bales, and 12,500 bales of foreign growths were held. Total mill stocks on February 28, 1954, amounted to 55,000 bales.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PEANUT OIL OUTPUT INCREASING

Production of peanut oil in the Dominican Republic is forecast at 9,300 short tons in 1955 against 7,660 tons last year and 6,130 tons in 1953, reports John E. Montel, Agricultural Officer, American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo. About one-half of all fats and oils consumed by humans in the Republic is peanut oil, and the balance is chiefly lard and coconut oil.

Official sources estimate commercial production of lard in 1954 at about 3,260 tons. Production of coconut oil for use in the manufacture of soap totaled 862 tons. Industrial consumption of peanuts and copra last year was 30,096 and 1,565 tons, respectively. About 13,000 tons of peanut cake and 840 tons of cacao cake also were produced. Industrial production of tallow in 1953 was reported at around 210 tons but data for 1954 are not yet available.

The country's only oil mill pays RD $10.50 (one RD dollar equals one U. S. dollar) per bag of 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of farmers' stock Spanish Red Valencia peanuts, virtually the only variety grown. This includes the cost of transportation and bags, and is based on deliveries c.i.f. warehouse or factory. The grower nets about RD $8.00. Actually, the oil mill is largely responsible for the recent significant increases in peanut and peanut oil production. The firm donates to farmers all their required seed. Total area planted to peanuts in 1953 is estimated at 24,130 acres, and in 1954 about 86,500 acres. Additional increases are expected to boost this to around 100,000 acres by the end of 1955. The Government hopes by the 1956 harvest to be self-sufficient in peanut oil production and to acquire small surpluses thereafter.

Imports of fats and oils into the Republic are relatively small. The principal items imported in 1954 were inedible tallow--1,965 tons (nearly all from the United States), and peanut oil--1,361 tons. Major exports were 12,327 tons of peanut cake and 1,243 tons of cocoa meal cake.

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS UP IN APRIL

Philippine exports of both copra and coconut oil in April increased from the preceding month and were higher than in April of 1954, according to Agricultural Attache H. V. Geib, American Embassy, Manila. Copra exports totaled 55,784 long tons, an increase of 17 percent from the previous month and 14 percent from April 1954. Cumulative shipments during January-April 1955 amounted to 229,329 tons or 14 percent more than the 201,280 tons exported in the comparable period of 1954.

The breakdown of the April copra exports by country of destination is as follows: United States--27,805 tons (Atlantic-2,989, Gulf-2,250, Pacific-22,566); Denmark--1,000; Germany--2,000; Italy--1,500; the Netherlands--2,500; Spain--153; Sweden--3,900; Europe, unspecified--4,500; and Colombia--12,426 tons.

April exports of coconut oil amounted to 6,005 tons compared with 4,232 tons in March and 3,860 tons in April 1954. The January-April aggregate was 21,107 tons against 17,337 tons in 1954. The entire quantity of oil shipped in April went to the United States (Atlantic-5,750, Pacific-255).

On a copra equivalent basis, exports of copra and coconut oil January through April of this year totaled 262,832 tons, or 15 percent more than the 228,799 tons exported in the same months of 1954.

The copra export price in mid-May was $150.00 per short ton, c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices in Manila were 24.50 to 27.00 pesos per 100 kilograms ($124.47 to $137.17) per long ton.

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Asia's Principal Rice Imports by Country of Origin. Foreign Ag. Circ. FR-6-55.
Cuban Fiber Production in 1954. Foreign Ag. Circ. FVF-6-55.
World Cattle Numbers, 1954 and 1955. Foreign Ag. Circ. FLM-4-55.
The Spanish Tobacco Market. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-22-55.
World Hog Numbers, 1954 and 1955. Foreign Ag. Circ. FLM-1-55.
World Hops Production Continues To Decline; U.S. Exports Higher. Foreign Ag. Circ. FH-1-55.
World Soybean Production Sets New Record. Foreign Ag. Circ. FFO-12-55.

ARGENTINA NOW DEFICIT PRODUCER OF EDIBLE OILS

The most significant event of the past year in the Argentine fats and oils situation has been the decided shift of Argentina from a surplus to a deficit producer of edible oils, reports R. C. Tetro, Agricultural Attache, and W. L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. During the year that ended March 31, last, the net deficit in edible oils was about 11,000 short tons, as small exports under old contracts were completed to Belgium and Chile, offsetting part of the imports from the United States. Conservation measures taken during the year included prescribed blending and increases in retail prices. For 1955-56, the Argentine deficit in edible oils is estimated at about 90,000 tons, against which 13,000 tons were received in early April and the purchase of 22,000 tons has been arranged under the U. S. Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Public Law 480).

Greatly stepped-up sales of linseed oil pushed 1954 exports to nearly 250,000 tons and reduced the government-held inventory to less than 22,000 tons as of December 31, 1954. The heaviest buyer of this commodity was reported recently as still holding considerable quantities of the oil purchased, some in Buenos Aires and some in European free ports. With a fair flaxseed crop year, the Argentine has official oil inventories of less than one-half those at the beginning of 1954, and total availabilities of over 200,000 tons compared with 365,000 a year earlier.

Table 1 - ARGENTINA: Flaxseed, estimated supply and distribution

(Thousand bushels)

	1953	1954	1955
Supply			
Opening stocks, Jan. 1	9,955	3,251	1,968
Crop 1/	23,003	16,140	18,503
Total	32,958	19,391	20,471
Distribution			
Exports	390	433	-
Crushings 2/	24,593	12,266	13,779
Seed and waste	4,724	4,724	4,724
Ending stocks Dec. 31	3,251	1,968	1,968
Total	32,958	19,391	20,471

1/ November-February harvest. 2/ Subject to processing losses of about 5 percent. Remainder estimated at 32 percent oil and 63 percent cake and meal.

Compiled from official and unofficial data by the American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

Table 2 - ARGENTINA: Linseed oil, estimated supply and distribution

(Thousand short tons)

	1954	1955
Supply		
Opening stocks, Jan. 1	243	1/ 83
Production	123	127
Total	366	210
Distribution		
Exports	250	2/ 62
Consumption	33	33
Ending stocks, Dec. 31	83	3/ 115
Total	366	210

1/ About evenly divided between IAPI and an international trading organization whose heavy purchases last year took most of the Argentine "surplus." Unsold IAPI stocks were less than 22,000 tons. 2/ January-February 1955. 3/ Carry-over plus exports in remaining 10 months.

Compiled from official and unofficial data by the American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

Despite a gain in cattle receipts, beef fat production in 1954, at about 73,000 tons edible and 97,000 inedible, was below the 1953 level. A further decline is anticipated in 1955 as steers must be marketed at lighter weights and in less-finished condition than formerly to receive the optimum carcass weight price as set by the government. Mutton tallow production this year is likewise expected to be somewhat less than the 1954 output of about 3,800 tons as sheep numbers are believed to be declining, particularly in the central and northern provinces where much of the edible tallow originates. Lard output, however, will probably increase in 1955, as hog marketings gradually recover from the low 1954 level. Lard production in 1954 is estimated at 13,000 tons.

Exports of inedible beef tallow were prohibited in 1954. However, this year neither edible nor inedible mutton and beef tallows are authorized as a result of the over-all shortage of fats and oils.

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INDONESIA COPRA EXPORTS UP IN FEBRUARY

Indonesia's copra exports during February totaled 19,748 long tons, an increase of 38 percent from the previous month but one-fifth less than the volume exported in February 1954, according to the American Embassy, Djakarta. Total shipments during January-February amounted to 34,044 tons or one-fourth less than the 45,296 tons exported in the comparable period of 1954.

The breakdown of the February exports by country of destination is as follows: Germany--439 tons; the Netherlands--1,476, Czechoslovakia--1,969; Poland--1,476; Malaya (Penang)--2,965; Singapore--7,486 and Japan--3,937 tons.

INDONESIA COPRA AND PALM EXPORTS EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Indonesia's copra and palm exports are expected to increase this year, according to the American Embassy, Djakarta. Palm production probably will be larger than in 1954 and copra production likely will approximate last year's.

Deliveries of copra by the Copra Foundation in 1954 amounted to 434,220 long tons compared with 454,060 tons in 1953. As these figures represent official purchases by the Foundation in East Indonesia only, they do not give a true picture of total Indonesian copra production. Copra produced in Sumatra and Java has not been under the jurisdiction of the Foundation. In view of this it is logical to assume that total production is much greater than shown by the Foundation purchases. Likewise, total consumption of copra is considerably greater than purchases of copra by the Copra Foundation for delivery to oil mills would indicate.

Copra exports from Indonesia totaled 292,162 tons in 1954 against 299,104 tons the previous year. The largest quantities went to the Netherlands (65,292 tons) and Singapore (68,758 tons).

According to an official of the Copra Foundation, the establishment of a separate Copra Foundation for Sulawese should result in the virtual elimination of smuggling from that area, estimated to have totaled 9,500 tons in 1954, and to directing most if not all of the copra into commercial channels.

As a further measure to boost exports, an association of exporters has been formed recently under the name "Persatuan Exportir Kopra Indonesia" (PEKSI) (the All-Indonesian Association of Copra Exporters). While the Copra Foundation will continue to be the sole seller of copra abroad, PEKSI will serve as the sole broker, hoping thereby to faciliate matters for importers, especially in Western Europe. The new organization is to be given a one-year trial after which, if it is not successful, it will return the job assigned to it to the Copra Foundation.

Competition from the Philippines, especially for markets of Western Europe, will, on the other hand, tend to limit any expansion in copra exports. High domestic prices compared to the market prices also will have their effect. The general outlook for Indonesian producers is, therefore, not very bright.

Last year's production of palm oil and palm kernels was reported at 185,545 and 47,715 short tons, respectively, compared with 176,995 and 46,710 tons in 1953. Palm oil consumption was estimated at 29,140 tons against about 34,690 tons the year before. No consumption of kernels was reported for 1954 and only a small quantity of around 2,000 tons appears to have been consumed in 1953.

Indonesia exported 154,439 tons of palm oil last year (145,692 in 1953) of which 102,401 tons went to the Netherlands. Shipments to the United States at 9,557 tons were considerably larger than in the previous two years (3,591 in 1953 and only 332 in 1952) but are negligible in comparison to the 1935-39 period when sales to the United States averaged 127,650 tons. The virtual loss of the American market is being compensated for by new markets and increased exports to some countries in Europe and to Japan. The trade, however, is somewhat apprehensive over the effect U. S. sales of oil from holdings of the Commodity Credit Corporation may have on world markets and whether some of Indonesia's present markets may be lost as a result. Palm kernel exports, largely to the Netherlands, amounted to 46,952 tons in 1954 against 45,829 in 1953.

Soybean production increased from 10,840,000 bushels in 1953 to 14,570,000 bushels in 1954 and peanut production from 255,735 to 301,340 short tons, shelled basis. No figures are available on the domestic consumption of these commodities. The presumption is that virtually the total output of soybeans was consumed in Indonesia since exports are prohibited. Some 5,600 bushels, however, were exported to Singapore and Hong Hong in 1954. And, with the exception of the quantity of peanuts exported--14,703 tons shelled basis and 2,951 tons unshelled basis--it is assumed that the total crop was consumed locally.

CHILE CONTINUES IMPORTS OF EDIBLE VEGETABLE OILS

Chile is a deficit producer of edible vegetable oils and import requirements for 1955 are forecast at 22,000 short tons, reports the American Embassy, Santiago. This compares with imports of 21,292 tons in 1954 and 22,292 tons in 1953. Over 95 percent of the edible oils imported last year consisted of miscellaneous mixed oils, semi-processed, 16,628 tons of which came from Argentina and 3,779 tons from the United States. Chile imported also 110 tons of industrial oils, 139 tons of oilseeds, and 8 tons of marine oils in 1954. (Cont'd., next page.)

Production of sunflower seed, hempseed, and flaxseed, the major oilseeds grown in Chile, in the 1954-55 crop year has been forecast at 73,200 tons, 4,500 tons, and 5,800 tons, respectively. In 1953-54, sunflower seed output was 82,860 tons. The indicated decrease in the current sunflower crop probably results from a decrease in the area sown from 119,950 acres in 1953-54 to about 104,400 acres in 1954-55.

Production of vegetable oil from domestic raw materials in 1955 is forecast roughly at 22,000 tons, about the same as the estimated 21,670 tons produced last year. Chile produces substantial quantities of whale oil and the production forecast for 1955 is 9,900 tons, against 8,860 tons in 1954 and 5,585 tons in 1953.

MALAYA'S PALM EXPORTS INCREASE

Malaya's exports of palm oil and palm kernels in 1954 increased from 1953 and from the 1935-39 average, reports Glenn A. Ruggles, Agricultural Officer, American Consulate General, Singapore.

MALAYA: Palm oil and palm kernel exports, average 1935-39, annual 1953 and 1954

(Short tons)

Country	Palm oil			Palm kernels		
	Average 1935-39	1953	1954 1/	Average 1935-39	1953	1954 1/
Canada	9,599	2,157	13,043	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	226	2,663	2,036
Western Germany	-	3,833	1,303	1,410	2,998	1,781
France	-	-	-	-	1,524	2/ 3,270
India	908	15,172	14,214	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	440	4,969	1,304	5,822	7,852
United Kingdom	23,270	28,641	18,973	2,115	247	-
Other countries	13,583	886	3/ 2,713	3,077	-	3/ 773
Total	47,360	51,129	55,215	8,132	13,254	15,712

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes shipments to Corsica. 3/ Exports of palm oil to Belgium amounted to 1,432 tons; palm kernels, 560 tons.

Compiled from official sources.

Palm oil exports amounted to 55,215 short tons compared with 51,129 tons in 1953. While shipments to Canada increased sharply, exports to the United Kingdom declined by one-third. Kernel exports increased from 13,254 to 15,712 tons principally as a result of larger shipments to the Netherlands and France.

TURKEY'S OILSEED OUTPUT UP IN 1954

Production of the principal oilseeds grown in Turkey in 1954 is estimated roughly at 554,300 short tons, an increase of about 13 percent from 1953, reports William A. Helseth, Vice Consul, American Consulate, Izmir. Most of the estimated increase from 1953 occurred in cottonseed and sunflower seed. In addition to oilseeds, as such, olive production in 1954 was reported at about 440,000 tons against 149,000 tons in 1953. Olive oil production from the 1954 crop of olives is estimated at 65,000 tons compared with 30,000 tons from the 1953 crop. Total production of vegetable oils from the 1954 crops was estimated at 128,410 tons, or more than one-third larger than in the previous year. Turkey also produced about 4,500 tons of tallow and around 2,700 tons of dolphin fish oil in 1954.

TURKEY: Estimated production of specified oilseeds and vegetable oils, 1953 and 1954

(Short tons)

Oil-bearing material	Oilseed		Vegetable oil	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
Olives	149,000	440,000	1/ 30,000	1/ 65,000
Sesame seed	23,000	28,000	550	4,400
Cottonseed	275,000	300,000	28,600	26,500
Sunflower seed	143,000	176,000	24,500	26,500
Flaxseed	19,000	17,000	5,000	3,900
Poppy seed	3,600	5,000	1,200	1,500
Hempseed	5,000	3,900	2/	2/
Tobacco seed	800	300	220	60
Safflower seed	800	600	150	110
Rapeseed	3,400	1,700	770	440
Peanuts	13,700	16,100	2/	2/
Soybeans	3,700	4,400	2/	2/
Anise seed	1,400	1,300	2/	2/

1/ Does not include sulphur oil. 2/ Are not processed for oil in Turkey.

Source: American Consulate, Izmir.

The Turkish domestic price of most oilseeds and vegetable oils remained too high to permit the general export thereof in recent months. Of particular significance is the drop in exports of oilseeds from 78,865 tons in 1953 to 10,670 tons in 1954. Cottonseed exports fell from 27,182 tons in 1953 to 1,184 tons last year while exports of sunflower seed, in the same years, fell from 42,892 tons to 3,289 tons. In 1953 Turkey exported 1,256 tons of olive oil and 1,430 tons of fish oil but exports of these oils in 1954 were nil.

CHINA'S PEANUT, RAPESEED OUTPUT BELIEVED UP; SOYBEANS, SESAME DOWN

China's peanut and rapeseed production in 1954 appears to have been slightly larger than in 1953, but soybean and sesame seed output may have declined somewhat, according to the latest estimates of the American Consulate General, Hong Kong. These estimates may be more useful as indicators of the trend in production than as measures of absolute production.

CHINA (including Manchuria): Oilseed and tung oil production estimates, average 1931-37, annual 1953 and 1954

Commodity	Unit	Average 1931-37	1953 1/	1954 1/
Soybeans	Thousand Bushels	343,625	332,530	321,500
Peanuts	Short tons	3,020	2,315	2,370
Rapeseed	" "	2,726	3,030	3,140
Sesame seed	" "	938	745	715
Tung oil	" "	132	77	77

1/ These estimates can be considered more accurate in terms of trends rather than absolute figures.

Source: 1931-37--Estimates of the National Agricultural Research Bureau and the Institute for Economic Research and Investigation of the Northeast Economic Council of the Chinese Nationalist Government.
1953 and 1954--Estimates of the American Consulate General, Hong Kong.

Rapeseed, with production estimated at about 3.1 million short tons, is the only oilseed crop that appears to have exceeded not only 1953 output but also the 1931-37 average of 2.7 million tons. Peanut production, at about 2.4 million tons, may have increased slightly from the previous year, but was considerably less than the prewar average of 3.0 million. The 321 million-bushel estimate of soybean outturn represents some 10 million bushels less than in 1953 and 20 million less than prewar.

Sesame production, placed at about 0.7 million tons, also is believed to have declined from both the previous year and the prewar average. The Consulate estimates tung oil production at 77,000 tons, the same as in 1953 but roughly only about 60 percent of the average quantity produced in the 1931-37 period.

SPRING SOWING IN THE USSR

Spring has been delayed or was interrupted by spells of cold weather in a number of regions of the Soviet Union. A cold wave in the cotton-growing regions of Central Asia necessitated some replanting of cotton. Soil moisture supply, however, appears to be adequate in most regions. This is an important favorable omen for the harvest, which suffered from a drought during the past 2 years.

The area planted to all spring crops by April 30 was about 8,000,000 acres above that sown on the same date a year ago. The area planted to wheat alone by April 30 was reported to have exceeded by nearly 10,000,000 acres that sown during the same period last year. These figures, however, are less impressive in the light of a very considerable increase of acreage officially planned for this spring.

A large expansion of acreage under small grains, particularly wheat, is scheduled in the eastern regions of the country on virgin land or land which has not been under crops for a long time. (See "The New Battle for Grain in Soviet Russia," Foreign Agriculture, November, 1954, pp. 194-99.) More recently a campaign was started by the Soviet Government for a large increase of the corn acreage in order to bolster the lagging fodder supply for livestock.

Until this year, corn was a minor crop, occupying an area of only about 10,000,000 acres out of the total grain acreage of more than 270,000,000 acres. The expansion of corn is being pushed at the expense of other spring grains (oats, barley and wheat) and on summer fallow in nearly all regions of the country. In many of these regions climatic conditions do not appear favorable for the growing of this crop; it is either too cold or too dry. Shortage of proper seed and machinery, unfamiliarity of the farmers with corn culture, and propably insufficient fertilizer, are also factors which will adversely affect the new corn program.

The corn and new land programs, coupled with the weather situation, doubtless increased the difficulty and confusion usually prevailing during a sowing campaign in the Soviet Union. Another source of confusion apparently is the insistence by the Government on the swift decentralization of the hitherto rigidly centralized agricultural planning procedure whereby, on paper at least, greater responsibility is delegated to the management of collective farms. In addition to the continuing campaign among the Soviet youth for "volunteer" workers on the new farm land of the eastern regions, there has been recently inaugurated a new drive for about 30,000 Communist Party members in the cities to become, after a short training, managers of backward collective farms. (There are about 90,000 collective farms in the Soviet Union.)

LATE NEWS

A substantial reduction in the Turkish raisin crop is expected because of severe frost damage, but it is too early to estimate the actual reduction, due to recovery of second growth. Farmers' debts to the Agricultural Bank are postponed, and land tax cancelled upon certification of one-third or more damage.

* * *

The retail price of milk in the Seine Department (Paris) has dropped from about 12.2 cents a quart to 11.1 cents in bulk amount, as a result of the recently reduced price of milk to farmers during the summer months--according to a press report in Paris. A similar 4 franc reduction in bottled milk brings the price to 12.7 cents a quart. Retail merchants will continue to receive a profit margin of 1.3 cents a quart. (See *French Reduce Summer Milk Price*, p. 617.) (LATE NEWS continues, next page.)

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LATE NEWS (Cont'd.)

A hearing on potatoes, for information on production, consumption, marketing, and imports and exports, has been scheduled for June 13 by the Canadian Tariff Board. Objective is to determine effect of the tariff on Canadian potato producers and consumers. Intent to file briefs or to testify must be filed with the Secretary of the Board by May 31.

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United States imports of cotton for consumption in March of this year amounted to 28,000 bales (480 pounds net)--including 15,000 bales from Egypt; 10,000 bales from Mexico; 2,000 bales from India; and 1,000 bales from Peru. Imports of cotton linters amounted to 14,000 bales (480 pounds net). Mexico supplied 9,000 bales; the U.S.S.R. 3,000 bales; and Brazil 1,000 bales. Exports of cotton linters totaled 32,000 bales (480 pounds net), compared with 45,000 bales in March 1954. This March, West Germany received 15,000 bales; the United Kingdom 8,000; France 4,000; Canada 2,000; and Japan and Spain 1,000 bales each.

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